

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CCMS, ENRG, SENV

SUBJ: CCMS PLENARY SESSION, NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION

REFS: (A) STATE 226306 (B) STATE 231986

1. NORWEGIAN DELEGATION TO BRUSSELS CCMS PLENARY
WILL BE HEADED BY ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY DIRECTOR
GENERAL ERIK LYKKE, WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY
MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FIRST SECRETARY HARL-
VARD JOHANSEN AND NATO MISSION OFFICIAL.

2. THIS WILL BE LYKKE'S FIRST CCMS PLENARY. HE SAYS
HE HAS NO PARTICULAR PLANS FOR NORWEGIAN INTERVENTIONS
AT SESSION, BUT HE PROBABLY WILL EXPRESS NORWEGIAN
CONCERN ABOUT PROBLEMS OF ACID PRECIPITATION AND
OCEAN POLLUTION FROM OIL SPILLS DURING ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION.

AS DEPT AWARE, THESE POLLUTION PROBLEMS ARE OF
FIRST IMPORTANCE TO NORWEGIANS, AND, PARTICULARLY ON
ACID PRECIPITATION, THEY HAVE BEEN PUSHING FOR
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION PRINCIPALLY IN OECD

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AND ECE. LYKKE IS DISAPPOINTED THAT PROGRESS ON

THESE MATTERS HAS BEEN SLOW AND, FOR HIS MINISTRY, THE INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS TAKEN HAVE BEEN TOO LEGALISTIC AND FAIL TO DEAL WITH CLEAN-UP PROBLEM. HE IS NOT LIKELY SUGGEST CCMS TAKE UP THESE ISSUES, BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO AIR NORWAY'S THOUGHTS IN THE CCMS FORUM. SINCE NORWEGIANS ARE DEVELOPING AIR POLLUTION MONITORING PROJECT IN ECE STEMMING FROM CSCE, THEIR VIEWS AND ACTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL HANDLING OF THIS MATTER COULD HAVE IMPACT ON CSCE FOLLOW-UP (REF B).

3. EMBASSY FINDS IT ENCOURAGING THAT NORWEGIANS PLAN TO USE PLENARY TO RAISE THEIR PRIORITY CONCERNS. IT WOULD BE A SPECIAL BENEFIT IF THEY COULD LEARN HOW ON-GOING OR PLANNED CCMS PROJECTS MIGHT HELP IN DEALING WITH THEIR CONCERNS, PARTICULARLY FOR EXAMPLE, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CCMS OIL SPILLS RESOLUTION AND THE AIR POLLUTION PROJECT. TO DATE EMBASSY, WORKING THROUGH LYKKE AND OTHERS, HAS BEEN ABLE TO ENCOURAGE LYKKE HIMSELF AND NORWEGIAN EXPERTS TO PARTICIPATE IN A NUMBER OF BILATERAL EXPERT EXCHANGES WITH US ON OIL SPILLS, AND LYKKE WAS ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL FOR EPA PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT IN AIR POLLUTION MONITORING CONFERENCE NORWEGIANS CALLED LAST YEAR RELATED TO ACID RAIN PRECIPITATION.

4. FOR DELEGATION BACKGROUND, LYKKE IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICIAL HERE ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS. IN PAST HE HAS BEEN COOL ON CCMS BECAUSE HE WAS SENSITIVE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF DIVERTING A MILITARY ORGANIZATION INTO NON-MILITARY MATTERS, AND HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT LACK OF MANPOWER IN NORWAY'S GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANY INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS INVOLVED. OVER THE PAST YEAR HE HAS BEEN MORE POSITIVE TOWARD CCMS AS PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS HAVE CEASED AND AS HE HAS SEEN THAT NORWAY CAN USEFULLY PICK AND CHOOSE AMONG THOSE PROJECTS THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO IT. NONETHELESS, HE IS STILL INCLINED TO FEEL THAT OTHER INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FORUMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAY BE BETTER THAN CCMS OVER THE LONG TERM TO PROMOTE COOPERATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO NORWAY.

5. EMBASSY HOPES THEREFORE THAT PLENARY WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR LYKKE TO MEET WITH ADMINISTRATOR TRAIN TO DISCUSS CCMS GENERALLY AND POSSIBLE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES BOTH COUNTRIES MIGHT

ENGAGE IN WITHIN CCMS OR BILATERALLY. ALSO WE HOPE
HE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO PICK UP HIS EARLIER DISCUSSIONS
WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HERTER ON TRANS-
BOUNDARY POLLUTION PROBLEMS RELATING TO AIR POLLUTION AND
OIL SPILLS SO THAT THE NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN THESE
PROBLEMS CAN BE ENCOURAGED AND CHANNELLED INTO
APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL FORUM.
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